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INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY  
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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/11/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [KV](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: IRAQ: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON KOSOVO RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 11928

Classified By: Classified by Senior Advisor Gordon Gray for reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d).

(C) Drawing on reftel points during a February 12 meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Hamoud, Senior Advisor Gray urged the GoI to join the international community and extend diplomatic recognition to Kosovo promptly. Hamoud said Iraq preferred to maintain a position that was "neutral between Kosovo and Belgrade," as Iraq did not want to adversely affect its relationship with Serbia. He added that Iraq would follow the consensus of the Arab League or an Islamic group (such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference). "Iraq does not want to go it alone," Hamoud said. Hamoud advised us to make an effort to have the recognition of Kosovo placed on the agenda of the upcoming Arab League ministerial in Cairo in early March. He said that Foreign Minister Zebari would support the U.S. position. "We are convinced. It is their right for independence. It is up to the people; but we do not want to take a unilateral stand," he concluded.

CROCKER